REMARKS

Claims 12-31 remain in this application.

The examiner's allowance of claims 12-30 is gratefully acknowledged.

The examiner rejected claim 31 as anticipated by Dombek et al.

To overcome the rejection of claim 31, it has been amended with language which is substantially the same as claim 12 was amended in the previous amendment. Thus claim 31 now recites structure which is very similar to the structure as recited in allowable claim 12. Therefor there is a strong presumption that claim 31 should also be found to be allowable.

However, it is again pointed out that the examiner's reading of the device of Dombek et al. as in the Final rejection was not appropriate. There are limitations recited in claim 31 which are not found in Dombek et al.

For example, claim 31 recites a first connection and a second connection. However, Dombek et al. has only one connection which is recited as inlet/outlet 44. The examiner read the portion connected to cap 46 as the first connection of Dombek et al., and the connection 82 as the second connection. Clearly the structure disclosed by Dombek et al. at 46 is not a connection. It does not connect to a low-pressure region, but rather seals the pump from the low pressure region. The area around 46 of Dombek et al. is completely sealed, and the seals make sure that this area is **not** connected to anything. Thus the examiner's reading of Dombek et al. as including a first connection at 46 cannot be correct. Element 48 of Dombek et al. is a cap which closes the end 48 of chamber 52. The examiner's reading of a first connection in Dombek et al. is simply not warranted by the teachings of Dombek et al.

The examiner has also indicated that element 70 of Dombek et al. is a closing element. Dombek et al. indicates that 80 is a seal between pump pistons 54 and 56, so element 70, in cooperation with seal 80, does close the axial bore 60. However, the examiner is stretching the reference to Dombek et al. by calling element 70 a **valve** closing element, since element 70 does not open and close anything as would have to be the case for a normal valve closing element.

Nevertheless, in spite of the above noted short comings of the examiner's rejection, claim 31 has, just like allowed claim 12, now been revised so as to specifically recite that the closing element is operable for alternatively opening and closing the through opening. These alternative functions are clearly not present in Dombek et al. The only function which element 70 of Dombek et al. accomplishes is, with the aid of seals 80, it seals between pistons 54 and 56.

Further, the examiner has read element 49 of Dombek et al. as a pressure relief device. But clearly it is not. Element 49 of Dombek et al. is the manually operated plunger for the pump of Dombek et al. As such, and in cooperation with the seals 80, it must always maintain a seal so that chamber 52 remains closed at its plunger end. If it did not do this the pump of Dombek et al. would not pump anything. Element 49 does not open or close any openings, and it does not relieve any pressure.

Element 49 does not provide communication from the second connection to the first connection, and it does not relieve pressure in the return as recited in claim 31. The structure as disclosed by Dombek et al. simply does not teach a connection anywhere near 46.

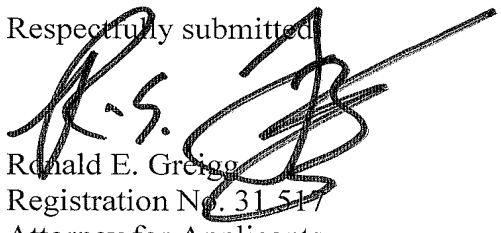
In fact, it is clearly stated by the disclosure of Dombek et al. that element 49 is manually operated to increase the pressure. It is very clear from the disclosure of Dombek et al. that element 49 never relieves the pressure.

Moreover, Dombek et al. does not disclose a pressure holding valve such as recited in the claims of this application. A valve mechanism is a mechanism which opens and closes, and the structure of Dombek et al. does not do this. Dombek et al. is in fact a manually actuated pump; it does not open and close anything as a valve is well understood to do.

Even though, as noted above, the examiner's reading of Dombek et al. is inappropriate since Dombek et al. does not read on the structure as recited in claim 31, claim 31 has nevertheless been amended to more clearly recite that the closing element is a means "for alternatively opening and closing the through opening". This gives the claim a definite recitation that the closing element has a further function which the structure of Dombek et al. clearly does not have.

For the above reasons, entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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